Dr. A. H. Parker And His Biography

The biography of Dr. A. H. Parkker who died last Wednesday night at his home is the history of Negro public schools in Birmingham over a reach of fifty years. It will be hard to write a history of the Negro city schools without Dr. Parker as the central figure.

This editorial seeks not to pass judgment on the place of Dr. Parker in either history or biography. That is work for his personal appraisers and the historians. However, we have not the slightest doubt that he has earned a position in educational history as sure as his place in the hearts of the people.

It is significant to note that the life of Dr. Parker is contemporary with the period that flourished the greatest Negro leaders our city has known. Not all the contributions of these passed--on leaders stand visible today. Yet, as time marches on, we, one day, will pause to place down the contributions of these men and put them side by side against those of another period.

Dr. Parker was a pioneer. He came to Birmingham from Springfield, Ohio, 52 years ago and made this "melting pot" city his home. He gave fifty years of life to the building of men and women in Birmingham. This work has not been in vain.

Some consider Dr. Parker in connection with interracial leadership. This cannot be denied. But in doing this he was not ordinary. He never set himself, nor necessarily allowed himself to be put up as an interracial leader. He served more in the capacity of consultant on interracial affairs. He was more useful probably in helping his race by this method than he could have been in another way.

Leadership has to do more with finding out where the group wants to go that you are representing and carrying them there than it does in describing those wants and adjusting them. It is a bit hard to say just what is interracial leadership. Interracial leadership, in one sense, deals with the leadership of thought, more than action.

Race relations is still a delicate field. It requires the best character, thinking, tolerance, patience and understanding on both sides to promote it. There are many phases of it, some more intricate and complicated than others. It was in the interracial affairs where Dr. Parker rendered unmistakable service, whether in the capacity of leader, advisor or consultant.

One who serves in this field lays himself open to distrust by his own people and temptations on the other side to exploit purely wholesome intentions. Dr. Parker must have been strong enough to withstand pressure from both without yielding to either. That is why he is considered as holding respect of both his people and the other part of the population. He served to the best advantages of both, or believed that he did.

Industrial High School was Dr. Parker's life. It only began as his dream. He called it his dream come true because he could not distinguish between his dream and his life. Today it is both his name and life. It should be this way.

The dream is divided into three parts. There were days of struggle and organization from 1900 to 1924. The school's program was being developed and a philosophy of life that was as much Dr. Parker's as it was any one's else. It was not until 1915 that Booker T. Washington's theory of industrial education gained full popularity.

There was the period of expansion from 1924 to 1932. During these eight years the school reached its highest physical growth. It began to grow beyond its ability to do its best work.

The depression that reached its depth in 1932 brought in the period of the new construction. It was an educational challenge. It was during this period that Dr. Parker's health began to crack. We are still in this period.

He came to the golden harvest. Three months and little more after his golden anniversary death ended his long and useful career. Fifty years of service motivated his promotion to a new position. They made him a director of guidance in all the Negro schools. He never got the chance to serve youth in this new role. But his biography can be made the guide of boys and girls of all races for years to come.

—From The Birmingham (Ala.) WORLD.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 18, 1939

Dr. A. H. Parker: Servant And Leader

The desire to serve that knows no color line motivated Arthur Harold Parker in all the half century he served the Birmingham public school system. He carried this desire into the establishment of the first high school for Negroes in the city, and it was with him through all the 39 years he was the school's principal.

And now that the death which knows no color line has come to claim Dr. Parker, the mourning and the sense of loss transcend all racial lines.

Because he served his race well, Dr. Parker served his community well. All Birmingham was benefited as he labored with the school long known as Industrial High School but which for four months has borne the name A. H. Parker High School. As he brought this school forward in the scope and purpose of its work, as he expanded its usefulness to the Negro students, he helped all Birmingham.

The always delicate and sensitive problems of race relationship found help in the sane and informed viewpoint of Dr. Parker. He adapted his school to the needs of the Negro in a mixed community. Much of the improvement in race relations experienced in Birmingham in recent decades could be attributed to his quiet but persistent efforts at creating a better understanding of common problems.

Dr. Parker's last months were gladdened, no doubt, by the knowledge that the school he founded and directed so long would bear his name. Modest though he was, it was a comfort to him, as it would be to any man, to know that his efforts had been recognized by his own people in his own lifetime and that something of the spirit he sought to impart to his work would be carried on in the name of the school he cherished.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 17, 1939

INDUSTRIAL HIGH PRINCIPAL DIES

Dr. Arthur Harold Parker Succumbs At Home

Dr. Arthur Harold Parker, for 38 years principal of Industrial High School, died quietly at his home, 620 Mortimer Street, late last night.

Dr. Parker was born May 7, 1870, in Springfield, Ohio, but his father was a native of Alabama and his mother of Virginia. He was graduated from Springfield High School in 1887, and finished a business course at about the same time.

Coming to Birmingham in August of that year, he earned a third grade teaching certificate on examination. He was appointed to Slater School by the late Dr. John Herbert Phillips, and was the thirteenth Negro teacher in Birmingham's system.

Four years later he became principal of Cameron School.

On petition of Negroes of the section, and with the backing of Dr. Samuel Ullman, board president, the Board of Education established a negro high school in 1900 with Dr. Parker as principal and sole teacher.

The high school was in one room and on the second floor of Cameron School, and began with 18 pupils. The class tripled during the first year, and Dr. Parker taught gardening, carpentry, music and manual training in addition to the academic subjects.

For 38 years he was head of Industrial High School, and at his retirement last year, the school had an enrollment of 2,992 students, an assistant principal and 89 teachers.

Last May the school's name was changed to A. H. Parker High School, and white and Negro citizens of Birmingham joined in the celebration of Dr. Parker's fiftieth year in the Birmingham school system. At that time Dr. Parker retired from his active principalship to become director of guidance of Negro public schools. He is survived by his widow.

Funeral services will be held Saturday.

Dr. A. H. Parker

His great work done—nobly done through a rounded half century of light-bearing and leading—Dr. A. H. Parker proceeded on his way Thursday, into the land beyond, where go the great souls. Mourning, respect and high tribute he leaves behind him. But over all there stands his invaluable contribution to this community, to the South and indeed to the nation, and to his own people.

Fifty years ago Dr. Parker became associated with the Birmingham public schools. Only this last Spring citizens, white and colored, gathered to celebrate this golden anniversary, to do honor and voice gratitude to this man.

Almost 40 years ago Dr. Parker assumed direction of the establishment of Industrial High School for Negroes. It began in a single room, with 18 pupils and with himself as the teacher. At the anniversary celebration this Spring the name of this now famous institution was changed. It is now and always henceforth the Parker High School. It is the largest Negro high school in the world. It is a model for others. Its enrollment is approximately 3,000, its faculty numbers 90.

Failing health brough about Dr. Parker's retirement from active direction of the school at the end of this last term. He was named principal emeritus and assumed also the less onerous duties of director of guidance for Negro public schools.

His familiar, energetic little figure passes now. But surely his great spirit remains. He still is and will be principal emeritus of the school he established. From him still will issue guidance for Birmingham's Negro public schools.

And for all who knew of him and his work, his life and memory will continue an inspiration, a reassurance, a testimony to the finer realities of human character and achievement.

This morning funeral services will be held in the auditorium of the Parker High School. Utterance will be given even unto the Eternal as to what a mighty and beloved servant of His children has finished his labors.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. A. H. PARKER

To the Editor The News:

Since I was away on vacation when Dr. A. H. Parker died, I wish to express through the columns of this paper a message of high tribute and profound respect to his memory on behalf of the First Congregational Church, of which he was a faithful and active member for many years. While his life's work as an educator for 50 years in the Birmingham public school system was close to his heart, yet he had other interests both in church and community activities which were also very dear to him.

At the time of his death he was a member of the board of trustees of the church and had served for a number of years as an efficient chairman. In earlier life he was superintendent of the Sunday school, and it is said that during that particular period the Sunday school reached its largest attendance and had a larger group (core) of public school teachers engaged actively in its work than at any other time in its history.

Prof. Parker served for some time as a member of the board of trustees of Miles Memorial College. In 1933, in recognition of his excellent work as an educator and the splendid service which he rendered that institution, Miles Memorial College conferred upon him the honorary degree of doctor of letters. He was a member of the National Education Association, and in 1937 was made a life member through the generosity of the faculty of Industrial High School, of which he was principal for about 40 years.

Dr. Parker was a member of the executive council of the Negro division of Jefferson County Community Chest, and his sympathy and generosity came to the aid of many underprivileged school children during his lifetime. His counsel was sought as a member of the advisory board of the Negro branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, and he manifested much interest in the organization and promotion of the High-Y clubs among the older boys.

Dr. Parker's influence as a Christian was felt at all times not only in educational circles, but also in the religious work and program of the church. As one of the many instances of his interest in his church, about two years ago, shortly after I had been called to the pastorate of the church, he led one of the 10 clubs organized among the membership in a special campaign and raised the largest amount of money towards a fund for the liquidation of a pressing indebtedness and the complete renovation of the church plant. A few weeks before his passing he requested that one of the cottage prayer meetings being conducted by the church be held at his home. The members of the board of trustees and deacons of the church served among the active and honorary pallbearers at his funeral. Our church joins the host of both white and Negro citizens who mourn deeply his great loss to the community.

WILLIAM L. CASH,
Pastor First Congregational Church.

Tuskegee Alumnus Dies at U. S. Government Facility

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—(ANP)—Harold J. Malcolm, class of '22, Tuskegee institute, and who since 1924, has been employed at the U. S. government facility here, died October 16 after a short illness. The funeral was held Sunday in the recreation room of the facility, with burial in Greenwood cemetery. He was a member of Britton McKenzie Post, American Legion and other organizations. The widow, two brothers, a sister and other relatives survive.

Dr. A. M. Brown Dies In Alabama

Birmingham, Ala. (Special to the Northwest Enterprise) Dr. A. M. Brown, one of the leading physicians of this city, died Sunday, Dec. 3, after a long illness. He was formerly a chaplain in the U. S. Army during the Spanish-American war. Dr. Brown was well known in Seattle, Washington, where he practised for a time and made many endearing friends. He is survived by his widow, daughter, and son, Walter S., who arrived by plane to attend the funeral rites. He was buried Thursday, December 7.

John M. Coar, prominent Negro citizen of Birmingham, and for many years, special man in the drapery-rug department of the Louis Pizitz department store, died at the Booker T. W. C. A., 700 Eighth Ave., Birmingham, Friday evening while laying carpeting. Death following a heart attack.

Coar was one of Birmingham's best citizens. He was a serviceable man, a churchmen, and interested himself in fraternal order endeavors fostered by the Negro people. He represented his race very efficiently as a workman at the Pizitz store. Hundreds of persons of both races regarded him as an outstanding citizen.

At this writing, funeral arrangements have not been completed. He is survived by his widow, two sons and one daughter.

Tuskegee Postmaster 26 Years In Dept. Dies

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 13.—Funeral services of Tracy T. Branum who passed away Friday morning January 13, at the Institute Hospital after a brief illness were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

The officiating ministers pointed out that Mr. Branum was born in Tuskegee, Alabama, April 30, 1894. He received his early education at the Children's House and graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1912. Immediately after his graduation he was appointed a clerk in the government post office at the Institute, in which position he served almost continuously since his appointment.

Pioneer Ala. Educator Passes Away

OPELIKA, Ala.—(ANP)—Citizens of Opelika and Tuskegee were saddened recently by the death of Mrs. Josie A. Calhoun-Tyson who, for many years, served as assistant principal of the Opelika public school.

A member of the first graduating class of Tuskegee institute and a pioneer educator, Mrs. Tyson was well known for her work in the rural sections of the South where she lived, with and taught those who most needed her instruction. For 50 years Mrs. Tyson kept as her slogan, "To work with Head, Heart and Hand." Retiring from public work during the latter part of her life, she conducted a private school at her home until she was stricken ill Oct. 25.

At the funeral Dr. Joseph W. Holly, president of the Georgia Normal and Agricultural college, delivered the eulogy, and Prof. J. H. Palmer of Tuskegee read a letter from the files of Booker T. Washington, written by Mrs. Tyson 27 years ago and telling him of her successful work in one of the Rosenwald schools of Southeast Alabama. Three daughters and two sons survive Mrs. Tyson.

Woman who was "Mammy" for many of Alabama's "400" is dead at 111.

Gasden, Ala., Jan. 12.- "Aunt" Amanda Webb, whose proud boast it was that she had helped to raise more prominent white folks than any other "Mammy" in all Alabama, died Sunday in Birmingham while on a visit to a daughter there, at the remarkable age of 111. According to her son, Lonnie Webb, with whom she lived serving as active housekeeper in the home until the last, family records show his mother was born in this country, on Feb. 18, 1828. Herself a freedwoamn long before the Civil War, she married a freedmen, Simon Webb of this City, who fought asa soldier throughout that war on the side of the Confederacy. Widely known and beloved throughout this and adjoining counties, her funeral was attended by fully as many white friends as those of her own race.

Courier
1-14-39
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Tuskegee Post Office Employee Dies

Tuskegee Institute, Ala—Funeral services of Tracy T. Branum, who passed away Friday morning, Jan. 13, at the Institute Hospital after a brief illness were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Mt. Olive Baptist church, Tuskegee, Ala.

The news of the sudden passing of Mr. Branum, popular post office employee and former secretary of the local chapter of the Tuskegee Alumni Association, shocked the Institute and community as it was not generally known that his illness was of such a serious nature and it was hard to realize that he had died.

As soon as the news of his death was received by his many friends throughout the country, messages of condolence began to reach the residence of the bereaved widow and mother of the popular postal worker, and friends called to offer sympathy and expressed willingness to be of service in the hour of sorrow.

The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Charles W. Kelly, pastor of the Greenwood Baptist church, and the Rev. Harry V. Richardson, chaplain, Tuskegee Institute.

T. BARNUM POST OFFICE CLERK, SHOOTS SELF

Wounds Fatal to Veteran Employe

1-22-39

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 19 — Believed to have been despondent because he failed to receive the appointment as postmaster of Tuskegee Institute's postoffice — a post left vacant by the death of James B. Washington, foster brother of Booker T. Washington founder of the institute — Tracy Tolson Branum shot and fatally wounded himself here last week. Branum died in the John A. Andrew Memorial hospital on the institute campus, Friday, January 13.

Funeral services were held at the Mount Olive Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Rev. Charles W. Kelly, pastor of the Greenwood Baptist church and the Rev. Harry V. Richardson, chaplain of Tuskegee Institute conducted the services. Floral tributes banked high around the altar attested to the high esteem in which Branum was held. Interment was in Ashdale cemetery, Tuskegee.

Widow, Two Children Survive

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Hilda P. Branum, a member of the faculty of Tuskegee Institute; two sons, Tracy Tolson, Jr., 4, and James Phillips Branum, 2; his mother, Mrs. Catherine Branum, and several close relatives.

Branum, a graduate of Tuskegee, had taken care of the institute mail for 22 years as clerk at the postoffice. He was a long and trusted friend of "J. B.", as the institute's first postmaster was familiarly known to thousands.

When the latter was stricken ill last summer Branum assumed the duties of the postmaster, besides taking care of his own — those of chief clerk. Upon his death, friends say, Branum waited out of respect for his dead friend to file his application for the position of postmaster.

Harris Gets Post

In the meantime with the endorsement of Robert R. Moton first president of Tuskegee and now retired; that of Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, son-in-law of Dr. Moton and the institute's second president and that of Arthur W. Mitchell, congressman from the First congressional district in Illinois, Richard H. Harris, alumn of Tuskegee Institute was named by Congressman Steagall of Alabama for the postmastership. Harris is said to have been a classmate of Mitchell in Alabama.

News of Harris' appointment as postmaster, a post sought by Branum, it was reported, came as a bitter blow to Branum. Reports are that the fatal shoting was a direct result, although the appointment is only a temporary one and is for six months. A new federal law makes it compulsory for postmasters of this class to take examination. On Saturday the day following Branum's death 16 took examination for the job.

Was 'Kegee Graduate

Harris, the new appointee, operates a haberdashery in the Chambliss building across the Tuskegee campus on Greenwood avenue. He succeeded the late Victor Tulane as trustee of the institute, and at one time ran the canteen in the United States Veterans hospital, Unit No. 91, five miles from Tuskegee campus.

Branum was born in Tuskegee April 30, 1894. He received his early education at the Children's house and graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1912. Immediately after his graduation he was appointed a clerk in the government postoffice at the institute, in which position he has served continuously since his appointment.

His work brought him in close touch with students, faculty, community and townspeople and to all he was courteous and considerate.

Widow on Faculty

His widow, the former Miss Hilda Douglas Phillips, a graduate of the University of Southern California, came to Tuskegee Institute seven years ago to accept

position in the Chambliss Children's house, a grade school on the campus. Last fall she became a teacher in the school of education in the college department of the institute.

Pallbearers, active and honorary were, Gus Godfrey, A. F. Bradley, Capt. F. L. Dyre, Earl Sorrell, William C. Lester, J. Julius Flood, P. H. Roney, Larry Robinson; Archie Yates, George Carter, C. L. Abbott, Lee A. Jones, Joseph M. Dugas, Conrad Hutchinson, Dr. E. H. Dibble, Jr., Dr. George C. Branche, Frank J. Wright and Dr. Clay E. Simpson, Owensboro, Ky.

KEGEE P. O. FUNDS SHORT

TUSKEGEE, Jan. 26 — (ANP) — Postal authorities checking over the accounts of Tracy Brannum, veteran and popular postal clerk who died by his own hand here two weeks ago, are said to have found a considerable shortage. Mr. Brannum for years had been in charge of the money order and postal savings accounts at the institute post office. J. B. Washington, postmaster at Tuskegee for 40 years, died last October.

Conjecture among Mr. Brannum's many friends points to the presumption that, knowing the advent of a new postmaster meant the auditing of office accounts, and seeing no immediate way out of the situation, which it is reported covered a period of years, Branum chose death rather than face exposure. Brannum died from a self-inflicted revolver wound Friday January 13.

DISCREPANCIES ARE FOUND IN ACCOUNTS OF TUSKEGEE P. O.

Disclosure Believed Cause Of Tracy Brannum's Suicide, January 13

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But Tuskegee Postmaster Kills Self

Tracy Brannon Put Revolver in Pants Leg, One in His Bed

DR. BRANCHE IS THE HERO

Persuades Brannon to Suck Orange Containing Sleeping Powder

By DAVIS LEE
(Staff Correspondent)

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—Plans to murder Dr. Robert R. Moton, president emeritus, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president, and R. H. Harris, postmaster, were called off this week when Tracy Brannon committed suicide.

Brannon, assistant postmaster, born and raised on the grounds, had been employed in the Institute post office for 26 years.

During the illness of the late postmaster, a brother of the late Booker T., he had acted in his stead.

Job to Another

When Mr. Washington died, however, his position went to R. H. Harris of Montgomery, instead.

Dr. Moton

Brannon, who thought he had endorsements of Dr. Moton, Sr. and Patterson, said he was double - crossed and securing two revolvers vowed vengeance.

Visits

Dr. George Branche, Tuskegee physician, upon learning of Brannon's scheme, went to his home accompanied by Preston Roney, John Washington and Frank Drye.

They tried to dissuade Brannon, explaining that his application would be considered in the end. The despondent assistant postmaster exclaimed: "I doubt it. I could wipe the three of them out at once."

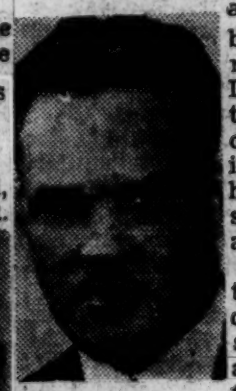
Gave Him a Pill

Dr. Branche insisted that Brannon lie down. He slipped a pill in an orange and asked him to suck it. In a few minutes, Brannon was asleep. A search was then made. A .38 calibre revolver was found in the bed.

The next morning the men returned to talk with Mr. Brannon. According to them, he was in a better mood and had his mother to prepare a light breakfast. Dr. Branche insisted that he go to the hospital for a few days. He consented.

Shot Is Heard

At the hospital the assistant postmaster refused to take off his long winter underwear. As soon as he got in the bed he asked the nurse, a Miss Lee, to go to the telephone and call John Washington, and have him to bring some stamps and post cards.



Dr. Patterson

The nurse left the room to carry out his instructions. Just as she reached the telephone she heard the report of a shot and rushed back to the ward to find Mr. Brannon slumped over in a pool of blood—dead.

Mr. Brannon is said to have carried the gun, a .32 calibre revolver in the leg of his underwear.

Leaves Wife and Children

It is said that Mr. Brannon took out some life insurance three weeks before his death. The dead man leaves a wife, two small children and his mother. He was buried Friday.

Mr. Harris, the postmaster, was found in the store of which he is a partner at the Institute. When asked whether he had reported a shortage, in Mr. Brannon's accounts he said that evidently someone overheard a telephone conversation and he had no statement to make. An investigation is being made.

Before his death, Brannon said he also had the endorsement of Dr. George Carver, Dr. Frank Johnson, Warren Logan, State Senator Watkins Johnston, Ted Alexander and G. S. Wright for the job.

A petition has been circulated against the temporary appointment of Mr. Harris. Fourteen other persons have requested an examination to fill the vacancy.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
April 1, 1939

Letters To The Editor

Try to confine your letters to 300 words.

LILLIAN DUNGEE, GREAT NEGRO CITIZEN

Editor, The Advertiser:

With the passing of Lillian Dungee, for 26 years colored probation officer of the Montgomery County Juvenile Court, Montgomery has lost a fine citizen, who spent her life in a labor of love for her own people.

With an understanding born of sympathy and nurtured by desire to help the Negro youth, Officer Dungee contributed to her work a quality of heart that was more efficacious in dealing with her people than the most profound knowledge of social service.

A trained social worker, she never lost sight of the human element. She was not Lillian Dungee, an officer of the law, but Lillian Dungee, guide, counsellor and friend of the weak and troubled.

This woman, born and reared in the heart of the South, at a time when the old order was yielding place to new, realized keenly the problem of an underprivileged race.

She set about teaching her people responsibility to their families and to their community. She taught them how to live orderly and to think orderly. Her name became a household word in Montgomery County Negro homes. Harried wives threatened their erring husbands and worried mothers warned their bad children with, "I'm goin' to tell Officer Dungee."

For many years it was my privilege to work with this extraordinary woman. Like all zealots she was fearless and tireless. She enjoyed little leisure and had little diversion other than that directly connected with self imposed duties as officer of the court. She was a good student and liked nothing better than those intervals spent at some university or college learning more and more of the work so close to her heart in order that she might better serve those who needed her.

Lillian Dungee with her cheerful smile was a familiar figure on the streets of Montgomery. Next to her own people she loved her "home town" and her white friends. Their appreciation of her fine work was a source of great happiness to her. She would have been even happier could she have known that others will follow the trail she blazed down through the years, to effect a better way of life for her beloved people.

Montgomery, Ala.

SUSANNE LURTON SOLOMON.

Greensboro, N. C., News
April 15, 1939

NEGRO EDUCATOR DIES AT HIS HOME IN SELMA

SELMA, April 14.—Funeral service for W. S. King, 75, prominent negro educator, who died at his home in Selma at 7 o'clock this morning, will be held from St. John's A. M. E. church Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The deceased had been connected with the public schools of North Carolina for more than 50 years, having been head of the negro schools in Morehead City for many years. He was active in civic and religious affairs. Surviving are his wife, Laura King, supervisor of the negro schools of Johnston county; two sons, Dr. A. E. H. King, of Chicago, and Dr. W. H. King, of Portsmouth, Va.

AGED TUSKEGEEAN DIES

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Aug. 11—Funeral services for Mrs. Annie Baugh, 90, were held at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fleta Baugh Owens, and the body was shipped to Luverne for interment.

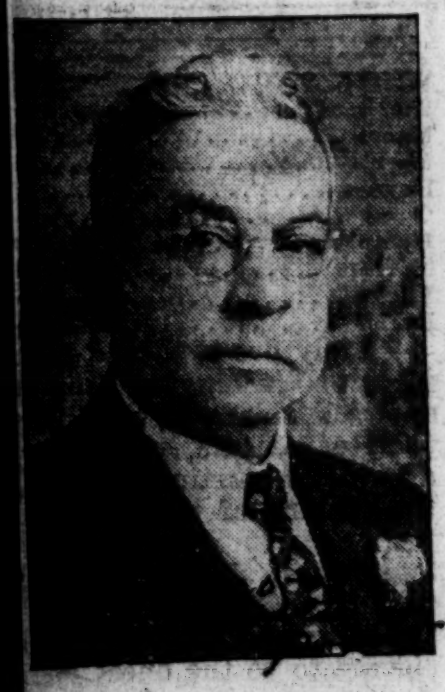
A native of Luverne, Mrs. Baugh had made her home with her daughter here in Tuskegee since her illness. She was a resident of Greenville for a number of years and was a leader in religious and educational activities.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Baugh was believed to have been one of the oldest residents in Tuskegee.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Mary Jane Baugh, Rutledge; Mrs. Fleta B. Owens, Tuskegee institute; Mrs. Docie Banks, Hurtsboro; and Mrs. Annie Richardson, Luverne; two sons, a former marriage; Miss Essye L. Owens, of the Tuskegee Institute summer school faculty, a grandchild, other grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Sudden Death Of Dr. A.H. Parker Shocks Citizens Of Birmingham

Dr. A. H. Parker Dies Suddenly



DR. A. H. PARKER

—former principal of Industrial High School, whose abrupt death Wednesday night stunned the whole of Birmingham. His funeral is set for 11 o'clock this Saturday morning at Parker High School.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—
By EMORY O. JACKSON

Like a zooming bullet into a placid ... came news early Thursday morning of the sudden and unwarned-of death of Dr. Arthur Harold Parker who died of an heart attack at 12:45 Wednesday night at the residence, 620 Fifth Street North.

Funeral services are set for 11 o'clock this Saturday morning at Parker High School auditorium with the Mary E. Strong service in charge. Interment will be made in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Eleventh Avenue and Nineteenth Street.

A pale of sorrow wafted over the city, Thursday as intelligence of the death of the renowned educator soared around the educational world. Dr. Parker ascended a height in Alabama education close behind the mark set by the illustrious Booker T. Washington. He lodged himself deep in the hearts of both white and colored citizens.

Monday he went for his regular ride with his secretary-companion as he made plans to assume his new duties in the new capacity of director of guidance for the city school system.

May 7 the Board of Education sponsored the mammoth "Fiftieth Golden Educational Anniversary" of Dr. Parker, the highest and most significant honor ever bestowed on a local educator, changing the name of Industrial High to Parker High as an historical educational memorial to its name-bearer. For 39 years Dr. Parker was first and only principal of Industrial, being succeeded by W. B. Johnson, his faithful assistant, who takes full command of the reigns the ensuing year.

He was born in Springfield, Ohio, May 7, 1870. August 17, 1887 he arrived in Birmingham, January 1888 he became the thirteenth teacher in the Birmingham school system appointed to the new Slater School now dissolved. In 1900 a request of colored citizens resulted into the Industrial High School with Dr. Parker as principal.

Receiving preliminary education in Ohio in 1933 Miles Memorial College conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters with Dr. Parker's college training supplemented with summers at Columbia University.

Industrial High after three different locations following its epochal beginning in one room of the second floor of the Cameron School became Dr. Parker's "dream that came true" in 1924 with construction at its present site. He saw a beginning enrollment of 18 students raced up to over 3,000 students to become the largest Negro high school in the world from the stand point of attendance-enrollment.

Citizens honored him with a loving cup, his faculty attested their appreciation many times with gifts, the Board of Education thrice crowned him with recognition honors, his students worshiped him, the alumni acclaimed him as their friend and the public generally admired his name.

Prof. Parker Dies; Served Alabama School 50 Years

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 25—Hundreds of mourners of both races attended the funeral services Saturday of Prof. A. H. Parker, retired principal of Parker high school who died at his home Thursday. Rites were held in the auditorium of the school named in his honor.

Shortly after Prof. Parker announced last spring that he would retire, a colorful program, celebrating his golden anniversary in the field of education in Alabama, was presented. During the celebration Prof. Parker said he had lived to see his dream come true. He had seen his school grow from a one-room shack with 18 pupils to become the largest Race high school in the world.

Prof. Parker was a native of Oberlin, Ohio. He graduated from Oberlin college in 1887 and came to this city the same year where he organized a private school known as Industrial High. The school became a part of the city public school system 38 years ago and Prof. Parker was made its principal. When he retired last spring his school had an enrollment of 2,992.

At the time of his death he was director of guidance for Negro public schools, an honor given him by the board of education.

Surviving him is his widow. Burial was made here.

PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL IS BURIED

Dr. Parker of Birmingham Headed School Bearing His Name For 39 Years.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 31 — Funeral services were held last week for Dr. Arthur Harold Parker, one of this city's most loved citizens, in the auditorium of the Industrial high school which now bears his name and of which he was principal for 39 years.

The eulogy to Dr. Parker, who was a victim of a heart attack, was delivered by Reverend D. F. Thompson, pastor of the 16th Street Baptist Church. Music was furnished by a chorus of graduates of the Industrial high school.

Active pallbearers were: Prof. W. B. Johnson, principal of the Parker high school; Prof. William J. Moore, C. W. Carns, J. T. Watley, Albert White and Robert C. Johnson. Honorary pallbearers were principals of the schools and leading business and professional people of the city.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
August 19, 1939

Mr. A. H. Parker

His great work done—nobly done through a rounded half century of light-bearing and leading—Dr. A. H. Parker proceeded on his way Thursday, into the land beyond, where go the great souls. Mourning, respect and high tribute he leaves behind him. But over all there stands his invaluable contribution to this community, to the South and indeed to the nation, and to his own people.

Fifty years ago Dr. Parker became associated with the Birmingham public schools. Only this last Spring citizens, white and colored, gathered to celebrate this golden anniversary, to do honor and voice gratitude to this man.

Almost 40 years ago Dr. Parker assumed direction of the establishment of Industrial High School for Negroes. It began in a single room, with 18 pupils and with himself as the teacher. At the anniversary celebration this Spring the name of this now famous institution was changed. It is now and always henceforth the Parker High School. It is the largest Negro high school in the world. It is a model for others. Its enrollment is approximately 3,000, its faculty numbers 90

Failing health brough about Dr. Parker's retirement from active direction of the school at the end of this last term. He was named principal emeritus and assumed also the less onerous duties of director of guidance for Negro public schools.

His familiar, energetic little figure passes now. But surely his great spirit remains. He still is and will be principal emeritus of the school he established. From him still will issue guidance for Birmingham's Negro public schools.

And for all who knew of him and his work, his life and memory will continue an inspiration, a reassurance, a testimony to the finer realities of human character and achievement.

This morning funeral services will be held in the auditorium of the Parker High School. Utterance will be given even unto the Eternal as to what a mighty and beloved servant of His children has finished his labors.

Dr. Arthur Harold Parker's Funeral Rites Impressive; Lofty Tributes To Educator

By EMORY O. JACKSON

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—A 33-minute long funeral service in the Parker High School Auditorium Saturday morning formerly closed out the amazing educational career of Dr. Arthur Harold Parker, late principal of the Industrial High School which was renamed for him during his golden educational anniversary May 7 of this year.

Simple and short were the last rites which consisted of invocation by Dr. J. R. Burges, president of Greater Payne University, scripture reading by Rev. O. O. Baker, pastor of the Miller Memorial Presbyterian church, five and four minutes remarks respectively by Dr. L. F. Banks, first superintendent of Birmingham public schools and Honorably Erskine Ramsey, president of the Birmingham Board of Education; an 11-minute sermon by the Reverend D. F. Thompson, pastor of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and three songs by Industrial High graduates under the direction of W. W. Whetstone, teacher in the Ullman High school.

Rev. W. L. Cash, pastor of the First Congregational Church and Dr Parker's pastor, was out of the city on his vacation and could not be reached and therefore by request of the bereaved family, Dr. Thompson delivered the funeral oration. Dr. C. B. Glenn, superintendent of Birmingham public schools, was in New York attending a education conference on democracy and could not reach Birmingham in time for the funeral. He was represented by Dr. Banks.

The body of the deceased educator lay in state in his "Dream That Came True" (Parker High School Auditorium) Saturday morning where for four hours streams of mourning citizens and curious spectators filed through the spacious auditorium and reviewed his remains. His medal casket was placed directly in front of the speaker's stand from which many years he gave his famous "Monday morning talks" which thrilled through the student body.

Surrounding the casket were florals which leafy symbols reflected the extensive sympathy bounding in countless hearts. The flower designs were arranged clear across the front length of the platform.

On the stage sat white and black, divided right and left. The number on the platform was hard to estimate but it was hardly under rifty. The seating on stage and in the auditorium was planned so that confusion would be eliminated. The huge crowd spread over both the main and second floors.

Three minutes before the clock hanging on the back wall of the auditorium showed 11 o'clock the piano struck up a tune and the funeral procession stepped forth with the bing of eleven o'clock. Persons were still drilling into the building.

"We cannot add too, nor take away," reminded Dr. Banks as he spoke of Dr. Parker as an inspirational figure whose influence drained through the whole public school system. He touched on the qualities of love, tolerance, service and loyalty possessed by the expired educator. "I am glad that I was able to say some good things about him during his lifetime when he could respond," said Dr. Banks in grabbing back memories of two golden anniversary programs-one on Friday for and by the students and the other on Sunday for the public. Mr. Ramsey twinned the development of Industrial High around Dr. Parker in the four minutes he spoke, representing the Board of Education.

Mixing gospel with poetry, Rev. Thompson appraised the fallen educator "a builder of people who "served everybody and the community knows that he lived." The deceased thought about Christ and selected Him as his foundation. Remarked the minister as he described Dr. Parker as a conservative with right motives which brought good results.

The Industrial graduates chose as their third and the concluding song "Swing Low Sweet Chariot." Then began the recessional which dodged the heavy traffic by going out the west side entrance onto Joseph Street.

The automobile processional moved north up Joseph street to Eleventh avenue where it turned east down Eleventh and motored onto the Oak Hill cemetery on Nineteenth street where the burial ceremonies were conducted.

Along the course people lined the streets and hung from windows to watch the six-block long string of funeral cars. In like manner on Eighth avenue crowds thronged on the window sill of stores as persons filed into the building. A flurry of curious crowd-watchers collected on the corners of John and Joseph street and in front of Parker High School.

Dr. Parkker died at 11:45 p. m. Wednesday night. About two years he had been in unsteady health, being forced off the job shortly before commencement in June of 1938 missing his first Industrial High commencement in 38 years. He served as principal of Industrial for 39 years, being prompted into a new position of partial retirement as director guidance in Negro Schools.

Survivors are the widow; three nephews, C. R. Yates of Atlanta, Ga.; A. B. and J. W. Yates, Tuskegee. Among the out of city visitors were Mrs. Wilma Burton of Chicago, Mrs. C. R. Yates, Atlanta; Mrs. Annie Reese Johnson, Chicago, Mr. J. R. Lee, Tallahassee, Fla.; Mr. Turner of Tuskegee, Dr. D. F. Drake of Normal and Mr. Holsey of Tuskegee. The Mary E. Strong-service directed.

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August 18, 1939

DR. A. H. PARKER DEATH'S VICTIM

Illness Ends Brilliant Career Of Leading Negro Educator

Death early Thursday brought to close the 50-year career of Dr A. H. Parker, one of the South's leading Negro educators.

Dr. Parker had been principal of Industrial High School here 38 years up to last May, when he resigned to become director of guidance for Negro public schools.

Dr. Parker's golden anniversary as an active member of the Birmingham public school system was celebrated last Spring when white and Negro teachers and others attended and took part in a program at Industrial High School, which was then renamed Parker High School.

Dr. Parker, who was 68, was born in Springfield, Ohio, and came to Birmingham after his graduation from Oberlin College in 1887. He taught in city schools until organization of Industrial High, of which he was named principal.

At the time of its organization, Industrial High School had but a single room, with 18 pupils. Under his direction, the school became the largest Negro high school in the world and served as a model for many other cities. At the time of his retirement the school had an enrollment of 2,992 students, an assistant principal and 89 teachers.

Failing health was given as the reason for his retirement.

He is survived by his wife.

Funeral services will be held in the auditorium of Parker High School at 11 a.m. Saturday.

NOTED BAPTIST LEADER BURIED

Served for 52 as Minister—Funeral Eulogy Delivered by Marshall A. Talley.

SELMA, Ala., Aug. 24—(ANP)—Final and impressive funeral rites for Dr. C. L. Fisher, 73, dean of the Theological department of Selma University and editor of the Intermediate and Advance Sunday School quarterlies for the National Baptist Publishing Board, were held at First Baptist church last Wednesday. Burial was in West Selma cemetery.

Dr. Fisher died at the university hospital, Augusta, Ga., Saturday, following an illness of a few days. He was invited to Augusta to preach the installation sermon of the Rev. M. J. Sherard, who was recently called to the pastorate of one of the leading Baptist churches, after attending the Baptist World Alliance in Atlanta. His wife and their six children were at the bedside when the end came.

Dr. Marshall A. Talley of Nashville, executive of the Christian Education department, National Baptist Convention, Inc., delivered the funeral oration and distinguished churchmen of various denominations were present.

Dr. Fisher was born and reared in New Orleans, La. He was graduated from Leland university, New Orleans, with the degree of A. B. class of 1884. Later he graduated from the Divinity school of Chicago university with the degree of B. D., and was valedictorian of his class. He was so adept with the Hebrew versions that he was known as the little "Black Jew."

Deceased
Son of Dr. Booker T. Washington
Mr. Earnest Davidson
Washington
Born 1889
Died 1939
Information from Tombstone (cemetery)
by chapel